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October 28, 2004

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION OF TWO DECONTAMINATION
TRAILERS AND TWO TOWING VEHICLES FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
(All Districts) (3 Votes)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Approve the Department of Health Services' request and authorize the Purchasing Agent to proceed with the acquisition of two (2) decontamination trailers and two (2) towing vehicles, at a total estimated cost of \$527,310.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The purpose of the recommended action is to provide on-site mass casualty decontamination capability to hospitals that have received contaminated victims of a bioterrorism incident. The acquisition of transportable decontamination trailers can be used as an adjunct to an existing system or as a primary resource for a hospital with limited or non-existent mass decontamination capabilities. The trailers' decontamination system also minimizes the risk of cross contamination.

Each decontamination trailer must be purchased with a towing vehicle as one unit to ensure compatibility of towing configuration and capacity. Together, one (1) trailer and one (1) towing vehicle cost approximately \$263,655. Thus, the total cost of two (2) trailers and two (2) towing vehicles is approximately \$527,310.

This request is to comply with the County equipment policy that requires Board approval prior to the purchasing of equipment with a unit cost of \$250,000 or greater.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:

The recommended action supports the County's Strategic Plan Goal # 8 for Public Safety, by increasing the safety and security of all residents in Los Angeles County through well-coordinated, comprehensive response and recovery plans for terrorist incidents.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

The total cost of the decontamination trailers and towing vehicles is approximately \$527,310 which will be 100% funded by the federal Department of Homeland Security's Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP) 2003 State Homeland Security Grant Program Part II. The expected life cycle of the equipment is at least 10 years. The total funding for this request is budgeted within the Department's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency's FY 2004-05 Adopted Budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

On November 12, 2003, the Board approved the acceptance of \$9.8 million in grant funds from ODP under the 2003 State Homeland Security Grant Program Part II. This grant provides assistance for the purchase of equipment to respond to a terrorism event. Of the \$9.8 million, a total of \$2.4 million was appropriated to the Department for such a purpose.

On November 12, 2003, the Board approved the appropriation adjustment to allow the Department to use the \$2.4 million allocated from the ODP 2003 State Homeland Security Grant Program Part II. The approved appropriation adjustment authorized the Department's EMS Agency to expend \$1.0 million for services and supplies and \$1.4 million for fixed assets related to terrorism response preparedness.

Current mass decontamination capability in the County is extremely limited. Several hospitals have received training in mass decontamination and have formed decontamination teams. However, with over 100 hospitals in the County, chances are that victims will self present to a hospital that has no mass decontamination capability. Many hospitals have included the local fire department in their mass decontamination plans, but this is not realistic since the fire departments with hazardous material (HazMat) teams will most likely be at the disaster incident site performing emergency decontamination. Therefore, this mobile mass decontamination response is an invaluable resource during a disaster.

The transportable decontamination trailers and towing vehicles will be managed and mobilized by the Department's EMS Agency.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
October 28, 2004
Page 3

CONTRACTING PROCESS:

This is a commodity purchase under the statutory authority of the County Purchasing Agent. The purchase will be requisitioned through and accomplished by the Purchasing Agent in accordance with the County's Purchasing policies and procedures, established by the Internal Services Department.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS):

The ability to respond and deal with large scale disasters involving contaminated victims within the County will be enhanced due to the capability of a mobile mass decontamination system.

CONCLUSION:

When approved, this Department requires three copies of the Board action.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Officer

TLG:pps

c: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Internal Services Department

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